

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NRC-05 FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-01
INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
PA-01 PRS-01 /117 W
-----070924Z 055606 /12

R 061509Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8057
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
ERDA GERMANTOWN
ERDA WASHDC

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DEPT PASS NRC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW
SUBJECT: GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES CONTINUE INTERNAL
DEBATE ON ENERGY

REF: A. BONN 19265("76); B. BONN 7341; C. BONN
7630; D. HAMBURG 521; E. BONN 7588
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1. SUMMARY: INFLUENTIAL GERMAN NEWSPAPERS AND EMB
POLITICAL AND INDUSTRY SOURCES CONFIRM THAT PARTY
ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PARLIA-
MENTARY FRAKTIONS CONTINUE THEIR INTERNAL DEBATE ON
THE GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY POLICY. CONTROVERSY IS CUR-
RENTLY FOCUSED ON PROPOSED FOUR-YEAR ENERGY R AND D

PROGRAM BUDGET. CDU/CSU SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT PROGRAM,
BUT A NUMBER OF LEFT-WING SPD DEPUTIES OPPOSE IT.
END SUMMARY.

2. SPD PARTY LEADERSHIP IN THE STATE OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN IS ACTIVELY AND OPENLY OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSED ENERGY R AND D BUDGET (REFS C AND D), IN SPITE OF THE RECENT CALL BY THE SPD'S NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR AN END TO "UNBOUNDED" CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT AND CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. THE SPD LAND ORGANIZATION'S STAND ON ENERGY WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR TOPICS AT THE MAY 3 MEETING OF THE SPD PRESIDUM, WHERE IT WAS DISCUSSED "WITH DISAPPROVAL," ACCORDING TO SPD NATIONAL BUSINESS MANAGER EGON BAHR. SPD CHAIRMAN BRANDT IS REPORTED TO HAVE TERMED AS "UN-ACCEPTABLE" THE BEHAVIOR OF SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN SPD CHAIRMAN GUENTER JANSEN, AND BAHR ASKED RHETORICALLY IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW AFTER THE MEETING "WHETHER THE PARTY IN SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN IS THE SCHOOLMASTER OF THE WHOLE PARTY."

3. SPD DEPUTIES FROM SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN ARE NOT NECESSARILY BOUND BY THEIR STATE ORGANIZATION'S CALL FOR A LONG FREEZE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY PLANTS UNTIL VARIOUS ISSUES HAVE BEEN CLARIFIED. THESE DEPUTIES MUST MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS ON THE PROPOSED ENERGY R AND D BUDGET. SOME FEAR THAT THEY WILL PAY A POLITICAL PRICE IN EITHER CASE, I.E. PENALTIES IN THEIR FRAKTION IF THEY OPPOSE OR ABSTAIN ON THE PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POSED BUDGETS, PENALTIES IN THEIR LAND ORGANIZATION IF THEY SUPPORT IT.

4. INDUSTRY CONTACT SAYS CDU/CSU WILL SUPPORT THE ESSENTIAL FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED R AND D BUDGET FOR 1977 - 1980, OVERRIDING TOKEN ENVIRONMENTALIST OPPOSITION WITHIN ITS RANKS.

5. COMMENT: CDU/CSU SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY R AND D POLICY IS SMALL COMFORT FOR SCHMIDT, WHOSE PARTY'S LEFT WING INCLUDES THE STRONGEST OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ENERGY POLICY, AND ESPECIALLY OF ITS NUCLEAR POLICY. THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS THAT FULL EMPLOYMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED ONLY BY INCREASED PRODUCTION, WHICH IN TURN IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT MORE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT CAPACITY IN THE 1980'S (REF E). OPPONENTS WITHIN THE SPD ARGUE THAT IN THE PAST FEW YEARS PRODUCTION HAS GROWN BUT PRODUCTIVITY HAS INCREASED MORE RAPIDLY. THIS, THEY SAY, HAS RESULTED

IN A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF JOBS IN THE FRG. THUS,
THE JUST RELEASED UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR APRIL SHOWING
OVER ONE MILLION STILL JOBLESS WILL REINFORCE THE
OPPOSITION OF SOME SPD DEPUTIES TO THE GOVERNMENT'S
PROPOSED ENERGY R AND D BUDGET.

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Message Attributes

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